
North Korea has said that it is abandoning the truce that ended the Korean War and that there is a growing risk of military conflict. The warning comes two days after it conducted an underground nuclear test. John Sudworth reports from the South Korean capital Seoul:

The statement from North Korea's military warns that it no longer **considers itself bound by the terms of** the 1953 ceasefire. The immediate cause, it says, is South Korea's decision earlier this week, to join a US-led initiative **to track** and search ships suspected of carrying weapons of mass destruction.

But the angry **rhetoric** fits the **increasingly hard line** being taken by Pyongyang. Two days ago, it conducted a powerful underground nuclear test, and last month, it launched a long-range rocket over Japanese airspace, both acts **in defiance of** widespread international **condemnation**.

Meanwhile, South Korean news reports say that steam has been seen coming from a plant at the North's main nuclear **facility**, a sign that it has **made good on** its threat to restart efforts to make **weapons-grade plutonium**.

John Sudworth, BBC News, Seoul

Vocabulary and definitions

considers itself bound by the terms of	recognises the validity of, acts in accordance with
to track	to find and/or follow
rhetoric	something that is said or written with the aim of being persuasive and effective
increasingly hard line	becoming more and more inflexible and uncompromising
in defiance of	showing refusal to listen to/take into account
condemnation	saying that something (here, North Korea's behaviour) is bad
facility	a place, especially including buildings, where a particular activity happens
made good on	acted on/realised/carried out (something that has been intended or promised)
weapons-grade plutonium	plutonium that is rich enough to be used in nuclear weapons

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